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PATENT IFW  
Attorney Docket No.: 080644-000000US  
Client Reference No.: 13745/5/St

On September 27, 2006

TOWNSEND and TOWNSEND and CREW LLP

By: Mark T. Davis  
Mark T. Davis



IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re application of:

Horst GUGGEMOS

Application No.: 10/590,123

Filed: August 18, 2006

For: ANNULAR RING ELEMENT

Examiner: Not Yet Assigned

Art Unit: Not Yet Assigned

INFORMATION DISCLOSURE  
STATEMENT UNDER 37 CFR §1.97 and  
§1.98

Mail Stop Amendment  
Commissioner for Patents  
P.O. Box 1450  
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Sir:

The references cited on attached form PTO/SB/08A are being called to the attention of the Examiner. Copies of the references [in compliance with the requirements of 37 CFR §1.98(a)(2)] are enclosed. Also enclosed is a copy of the Search/Examination Report from the corresponding Austrian application. It is respectfully requested that the cited references be expressly considered during the prosecution of this application, and the references be made of record therein and appear among the "references cited" on any patent to issue therefrom.

As provided for by 37 CFR §1.97(g) and (h), no inference should be made that the information and references cited are prior art merely because they are in this statement and no

ALL REFERENCES CONSIDERED EXCEPT WHERE LINED THROUGH. /B.F./

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PATENT

representation is being made that a search has been conducted or that this statement encompasses all the possible relevant information.

Applicant believes that no fee is required for submission of this statement.

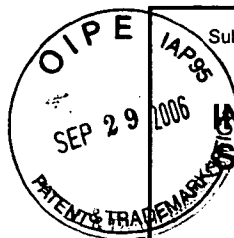
However, if a fee is required, the Commissioner is authorized to deduct such fee from the undersigned's Deposit Account No. 20-1430. Please deduct any additional fees from, or credit any overpayment to, the above-noted Deposit Account.

Respectfully submitted,



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Substitute for form 1449A&amp;B/PTO

**INFORMATION DISCLOSURE  
STATEMENT BY APPLICANT**

(Use as many sheets as necessary)

|       |   |    |   |                          |                  |
|-------|---|----|---|--------------------------|------------------|
| Sheet | 1 | of | 1 | <b>Complete if Known</b> |                  |
|       |   |    |   | Application Number       | 10/590,123       |
|       |   |    |   | Filing Date              | August 18, 2006  |
|       |   |    |   | First Named Inventor     | GUGGEMOS, Horst  |
|       |   |    |   | Art Unit                 | Not Yet Assigned |
|       |   |    |   | Examiner Name            | Not Yet Assigned |
|       |   |    |   | Attorney Docket Number   | 080644-000000US  |

**U.S. PATENT DOCUMENTS**

| Examiner Initials* | Cite No. <sup>1</sup> | Document Number<br>Number Kind Code <sup>2</sup> (if known) | Publication Date<br>MM-DD-YYYY | Name of Patentee or<br>Applicant of Cited Document | Pages, Columns, Lines, Where<br>Relevant Passages or Relevant<br>Figures Appear |
|--------------------|-----------------------|---|--------------------------------|--|---|
|                    | AA                    | US-4,089,139  | 05-16-1978                     | Moffa et al.                                       |   |
|                    | AB                    | US-2003/146527 A1   | 08-07-2003                     | Powers et al.                                      |   |

**FOREIGN PATENT DOCUMENTS**

| Examiner Initials* | Cite No. <sup>1</sup> | Foreign Patent Document   |                     |                                   | Publication Date<br>MM-DD-YYYY | Name of Patentee or<br>Applicant of Cited Document | Pages, Columns, Lines,<br>Where Relevant Passages<br>or Relevant Figures Appear | T <sup>6</sup>                      |
|--------------------|-----------------------|---------------------------|---------------------|-----------------------------------|--------------------------------|--|---|-------------------------------------|
|                    |                       | Country Code <sup>3</sup> | Number <sup>4</sup> | Kind Code <sup>5</sup> (if known) |                                |  |   |                                     |
|                    | AC                    | DE                        | 19818709            | A1                                | 10-28-1999                     |  | English Abstract Attached   | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |
|                    | AD                    | JP                        | 11-323980           | A                                 | 11-26-1999                     |  | English Abstract Attached   | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |
|                    | AE                    | GB                        | 2248866             | A                                 | 04-22-1992                     |  |   | <input type="checkbox"/>            |

|                    |                     |                 |            |
|--------------------|---------------------|-----------------|------------|
| Examiner Signature | /Benjamin Fiorello/ | Date Considered | 11/04/2008 |
|--------------------|---------------------|-----------------|------------|

\*EXAMINER: Initial if reference considered, whether or not citation is in conformance with MPEP 609. Draw line through citation if not in conformance and not considered. Include copy of this form with next communication to applicant.

<sup>1</sup> Applicant's unique citation designation number (optional). <sup>2</sup> Applicant is to place a check mark here if English language Translation is attached.